Numb. 103

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Hæ nugæ seria ducunt
In mala, derisum semel exceptumque Sinistré. Hor.

From *Saturday December* 3. to *Tuesday December* 6. 1709.

From my own Apartment, December 5.

THERE is nothing gives a Man greater Satisfaction, than the Sense of having dispatched a great deal of Business, especially when it turns to the Publick Emolument. I have much Pleasure of this Kind upon my Spirits at present, occasioned by the Fatigue of Affairs which I went through last *Saturday*. It is some Time since I set apart that Day for examining the Pertensions of several who had applied to me, for Canes, Perspective-Glasses, Snuff-Boxes, Orange-Flower-Waters, and the like Ornaments of Life. In order to adjust this Matter, I had before directed *Charles Lillie* of *Beaufort-Buildings* to prepare a great Bundle of blank Licences in the following Words:

'You are hereby required to permit the Bearer of 'this Cane to pass and repass through the Streets 'and Suburbs of *London*, or any Place within Ten 'Miles of it, without Lett or Molestation; provi-'ded that he does not walk with it under his Arm, 'brandish it in the Air, or hang it on a Button: 'In which Case it shall be forfeited; and I hereby 'declare it forfeited, to any one who shall think it 'safe to take it from him.

Isaac Bickerstaff.

The same Form, differing only in the Proviso's, will serve for a Perspective, Snuff-Box, or Perfumed Handkerchief. I had placed my self in my Elbow-Chair at the upper End of my great Parlour, having ordered *Charles Lillie* to take his Place upon a Joint-Stool with a Writing-Desk before him. *John Morphew* also took his Station at the Door; I having, for his good and faithful Services, appointed him my Chamber-Keeper upon Court-Days. He let me know, That there were a great Number attending without. Upon which, I ordered him to give Notice, That I did not intend to sit upon Snuff-Boxes that Day; but that those who appeared for Canes might enter. The first presented me with the following Petition, which I ordered Mr. *Lillie* to read.

To Isaac Bickerstaff *Esq*; *Censor of* Great-Britain.

The Humble Petition of *Simon Trippit*,

Sheweth,

'That your Petitioner having been bred up to a 'Cane from his Youth, it is now become as neces-'sary to him as any other of his Limbs.

'That a great Part of his Behaviour depending 'upon it, he should be reduced to the utmost Ne-'cessities if he should lose the Use of it.

'That the Knocking of it upon his Shoe, Lean-'ing one Leg upon it, or Whistling with it on his 'Mouth, are such great Reliefs to him in Conver-'sation, that he does not know how to be good 'Company without it.

'That he is at present engaged in an Amour, 'and must despair of Success, if it be taken from 'him.

'Your Petitioner therefore hopes, that (the 'Premisses tenderly considered) your Worship will 'not deprive him of so useful and so necessary a 'Sup port.

'*And your Petitioner shall ever*, &c.

Upon the hearing of his Case, I was touched with some Compassion, and the more so, when upon observing him nearer I found he was a *Prig*. I bid him produce his Cane in Court, which he had left at the Door. He did so, and I finding it to be very curiously clouded, with a transparent Amber Head, and a blue Ribbon to hang upon his Wrist, I immediately ordered my Clerk *Lillie* to lay it up, and deliver out to him a plain Joint headed with Walnut; and then, in order to wean him from it by Degrees, permitted him to wear it Three Days in the Week, and to abate proportionably till he found himself able to go alone.

The Second who appeared, came limping into the Court: And setting forth in his Petition many Pretences for the Use of a Cane, I caused them to be examined one by one; but finding him in different Stories, and confronting him with several Witnesses who had seen him walk upright, I ordered Mr. *Lillie* to take in his Cane, and rejected his Petition as frivolous.

A Third made his Entry with great Difficulty, leaning upon a slight Stick, and in Danger of falling every Step he took. I saw the Weakness of his Hams; and hearing that he had married a young Wife about a Fortnight before, I bid him leave his Cane, and gave him a new Pair of Crutches, with which he went off in great Vigour and Alacrity. This Gentleman was succeeded by another, who seemed very much pleased while his Petition was reading, in which he had represented, That he was extremely afflicted with the Gout, and set his Foot upon the Ground with the Caution and Dignity which accompany that Distemper. I suspected him for an Impostor, and having ordered him to be searched, I committed him into the Hands of Dr. *Thomas Smith* in *King-street* (my own Corn-Cutter) who attended in an outward Room, and wrought so speedy a Cure upon him, that I thought fit to send him also away without his Cane.

While I was thus dispensing Justice, I heard a Noise in my outward Room; and enquiring what was the Occasion of it, my Door-Keeper told me, that they had taken up one in the very Fact as he was passing by my Door. They immediately brought in a lively fresh-coloured young Man, who made great Resistance with Hand and Foot, but did not offer to make Use of his Cane, which hung upon his Fifth Button. Upon Examination, I found him to be an *Oxford* Scholar, who was just entered at the *Temple*. He at first disputed the Jurisdiction of the Court; but being driven out of his little Law and Logick, he told me very pertly, That he look'd upon such a perpendicular Creature as Man to make a very imperfect Figure without a Cane in his Hand. It is well known (says he) we ought, according to the natural Situation of our Bodies, to walk upon our Hands and Feet; that the Wisdom of the Ancients had describ'd to be an Animal of Four Legs in the M

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Two at Noon, and Three at Night; by which they intimated, that a Cane might very properly become Part of us in some Period of Life. Upon which I ask'd him, Whether he wore it at his Breast to have it in Readiness when that Period should arrive? My young Lawyer immediately told me, He had a Property in it, and a Right to hang it where he pleas'd, and to make use of it as he thought fit, provided that he did not break the Peace with it: And further said, That he never took it off his Button, unless it were to lift it up at a Coachman, hold it over the Head of a Drawer, point out the Circumstances of a Story, or for other Services of the like Nature, that are all within the Laws of the Land. I did not care for discouraging a young Man, who, I saw, would come to Good; and because his Heart was set upon his new Purchase, I only order'd him to wear it about his Neck, instead of hanging it upon his Button, and so dismissed him. There were several appear'd in Court, whose Pretensions I found to be very good, and therefore gave them their Licences upon paying their Fees; as many others had their Licences renewed, who required more Time for Recovery of their Lameness than I had before allowed them.

Having dispatched this Set of my Petitioners, there came in a well-dressed Man, with a Glass-Tube in one Hand, and his Petition in the other. Upon his entring the Room, he threw back the Right Side of his Wig, put forward his Right Leg, and advancing the Glass to his Right Eye, aimed it directly at me. In the mean while, to make my Observations also, I put on my Spectacles; in which Posture we surveyed each other for some Time. Upon the Removal of our Glasses, I desired him to read his Petition, which he did very promptly and easily; though at the same Time it set forth, that he could see nothing distinctly, and was within very few Degrees of being utterly blind; concluding with a Prayer, That he might be permitted to strengthen and extend his Sight by a Glass. In Answer to this I told him, he might sometimes extend it to his own Destruction. As you are now, (said I) you are out of the Reach of Beauty; the Shafts of the finest Eyes lose their Force before they can come at you; you can't distinguish a Toast from an Orange-Wench; you can see a whole Circle of Beauty without any Interruption from an impertinent Face to discompose you. In short, what are Snares for others— My Petitioner would hear no more, but told me very seriously, Mr. *Bickerstaff*, you quite mistake your Man; it is the Joy, the Pleasure, the Employment, of my Life, to frequent publick Assemblies, and gaze upon the Fair. In a Word, I found his Use of a Glass was occasioned by no other Infirmity but his Vanity, and was not so much designed to make him see, as to make him be seen and distinguished by others. I therefore refused him a Licence for a Perspective, but allowed him a Pair of Spectacles, with full Permission to use them in any publick Assembly as he should think fit. He was followed by so very few of this Order of Men, that I have Reason to hope this Sort of Cheats are almost at an End.

The Orange-Flower-Men appear'd next with Petitions, perfum'd so strongly with Musk, that I was almost overcome with the Scent; and for my own Sake, was obliged forthwith to license their Handkerchiefs, especially when I found they had sweetened them at *Charles Lillie*'s, and that some of their Persons would not be altogether inoffensive without them. *John Morphew*, whom I have made the General of my Dead Men, acquainted me, That the Petitioners were all of that Order, and could produce Certificates to prove it if I requir'd it. I was so well pleased with this Way of their Embalming themselves, that I commanded the above-said *Morphew* to give it in Orders to his whole Army, That every one who did not surrender himself up to be dispos'd of by the Upholders, should use the same Method to keep himself sweet during his present State of Putrefaction.

I finish'd my Session with great Content of Mind, reflecting upon the Good I had done; for however slightly Men may regard these Particularities and little Follies in Dress and Behaviour, they lead to greater Evils. The bearing to be laugh'd at for such Singularities, teach us insensibly an impertinent Fortitude, and enable us to bear publick Censure for Things which more substantially deserve it. By this Means they open a Gate to Folly, and oftentimes render a Man so ridiculous, as discredit his Virtues and Capacities, and unqualify them from doing any good in the World. Besides, the giving into uncommon Habits of this Nature, is a Want of that humble Deference which is due to Mankind; and (what is worst of all) the certain Indication of some secret Flaw in the Mind of the Person that commits them. When I was a young Man, I remember a Gentleman of great Integrity and Worth was very remarkable for wearing a broad Belt and an Hanger instead of a fashionable Sword, tho' in all other Points a very well-bred Man. I suspected him at first Sight to have something wrong in him, but was not able for a long while to discover any collateral Proofs of it. I watched him narrowly for Six and Thirty Years, when at last, to the Surprize of every body but my self, who had long expected to see the Folly break out, he married his own Cook-Maid.

Whereas I am informed, That there is a spurious and very incorrect Edition of these Papers printed in a small Volume; These are to give Notice, That there is in the Press, and will speedily be published, a very neat Edition, fitted for the Pocket, on extraordinary good Paper, in a new Brevier *Letter, like the* Elzevir *Editions, and adorned with several Cuts by the best Artists. To which is added, a Preface, Index, and many Notes, for the better Explanation of these Lucubrations. By the Author. Who has revised, amended, and made many Additions to the Whole.*

N. B. Notice shall be given in this Paper, when I conclude my First Volume.

Advertisements.

WHereas there were lately Advertisements in the Publick Print, of a Globular New Light that was to be put up at St. James's Coffee-house, to be seen there for Approbation, which hath since been perform'd to the general Satisfaction of those that have seen the same; the Person who has the Patent for the said Light living in Ireland, is willing upon reasonable Terms to dispose of his Interest therein relating to this Kingdom; and any Person that hath a Mind to treat about the same, may hear of him, and see the said Patent, at the Patent-Office in Paulsgrave-Head Court near Temple-Bar.

Just publish'd,

*** Mr. Le Clerc's Account of the Earl of Clarendon's History of the Civil Wars. Translated from his Bibliotheque Choisie. By Mr. Ozel. Printed for Bernard Lintott at the Cross-Keys between the Two Temple-Gates in Fleet-street. Price 1s.

On Thursday next will be publish'd,

*** Bibliotheca Anatomica, Medica, Chirurgica, &c. Containing a Description of the several Parts of the Body: Each done by some One or more Eminent Physician or Chirurgeon; with their Diseases and Cures. Illustrated with several Hundred Figures, done by the best Artists, and from the truest Designs. To be published Monthly. This 2d for December 1710 contains several Tracts relating to the Bones; with eleven Figures. In the Savoy, Printed by John Nutt; and sold by W. Lewis in Russel-street, Covent-Garden; Dan. Brown without Temple-Bar; J. Pemberton in Fleet-street; R. Knaplock at the Bishop's-head, R. Wilkin at the King's-head, and M. Atkins at the Golden-Ball, in St. Paul's Church-yard; W. Taylor at the Ship in Pater-noster-row; T. Horne under the Royal-Exchange, A. Bell at the Cross-Keys in Cornhill; and J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where may be had the First Month. Price 1s. each.

*** The famous Chimical Quintessence of Bohee-Tea and Cocoa-Nuts together, wherein the Volatile Salt, Oil, and Spirit of them both, are chymically extracted and united, and in which all the Virtues of both Tea and Nut are essentially inherent, and is really a pleasant, refreshing Preparation, found, upon Experience, to be the highest Restorative that either Food or Physick affords; for by it all Consumptive Habits, Decays of Nature, inward Wastings, weakly, thin, or emaciated Constitutions, Coughs, Asthma's, Phthisicks, Loss of Apperite, &c. are to a Miracle retriev'd, and the Body, Blood, and Spirits, powerfully corroborated and restored. A few Drops of it, in a Dish of Bohee-Tea or Chocolate, is the most delicate Breakfast or Supper, and Nourishment, Twenty Dishes of either without it; nothing being more nutritive and supporting. Likewise to strengthen the Back, prevent Miscarriages, cause Procreation and Conception, it is beyond all Medecine, as those that take it once will find, and scarce ever live without it. It is also the only sure Cure for Vapours and Melancholy; for those Diseases being occasion'd by the Poorness of the Blood and Spirits, this Quintessence cures, by its enriching and enlivening Properties. Is sold only at Mr. Laurence's, a Toy-shop, at the Sign of the Griffin, the Corner of Bucklersbury, in the Poultry, at the Battle, with printed Directions.